



The Official Newsletter of
the
**PAPAKURA RADIO
CLUB INC.**

December 2023



Setting the direction for 2024



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This Month's Meeting:

Wednesday 6th of November will be the last meeting for 2023. Following general business, we will have our annual general meeting.

If transport is a problem, let the committee members know, and we may be able to assist with arranging a ride for you.

Dates: **Wednesday 6th November**
Wednesday 13th November
Wednesday 20th November
Wednesday 27th November

General Meeting
Project Night
Committee Meeting
Activity Night

CLUB ACTIVITY:

We have another Ham Cram this month, on Saturday the 9th & 16th from 8:30 to about 5ish. In addition we have a few more who are looking at some night class options. So keep listening out for some new callsigns.

We have a 12 volt power board project underway, using Anderson power pole connectors to connect multiple radios (or other 12 volt equipment) to a single power supply or battery project coming to an end. Although there is still time to join in, and build one of these, We still have some extra kits available on a first come, first served basis.

We have also enjoyed the combined Christmas function with franklin. Thanks to all for an excellent evening. – See the Heard around the scenes for some photos.

Keep in mind, there won't be any formal meetings in January, but we'll still meet casually at the clubrooms. December offers some good radio opportunities, including the VHF contest on the 2nd and 3rd, the straight key night on the 3rd and H night on the 8th. January 1 is also the NZART portable activity Field Day. So, blow the dust off your rig and make some new friends.

But mostly, enjoy the well-deserved holiday period.



DX CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																				
5H3FM						PZ5NH									VU4N											3B9AT																								
VK9XGM								V471A																																										
			VU7A																																															
9L5M																																																		
VK9CY																																																		
TQ9W																																																		
5H3MB																																																		
			VP2VMM																																															
			V6EU																																															
					XT2AW																																													
YB9/DL3KZA																																																		
ZS7ANF																																																		
			T32TT																																															
				5R8VE																																														
VK0DS																																																		
HR5/F2ID																																																		
PI2ND																																																		
4S7KKG																																																		
VK0AW																																																		
FH4VVK																																																		

Featured DX

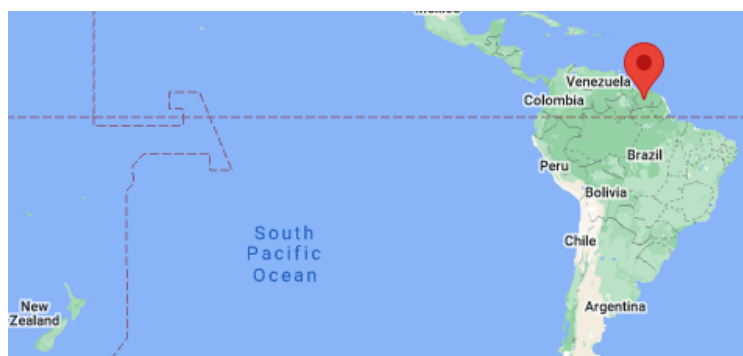
PZ5NH SURINAME

Nobu, JA0JHQ will be active as PZ5NH from Suriname, 7 - 14 December 2023.

He will operate on HF Bands, CW, SSB, FT8.

Ads for direct QSL:

Nobuaki Hosokawa, 8270 Fujimi, Fujimi-cho, Suwa-gun, Nagano, JAPAN, 399-0211.



UPCOMING CONTESTS

Start - Finish Date-Time Date-Time				Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	2100	2	2100	1.8-28	SEC QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), school abbreviation or none	secqsoparty.com
2	0000	3	2359	3.5-28	Kalbar Contest	Ph	RS, serial	kalbarcontest.com
2	0500	3	1000	3.5-28	UFT Meeting	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.uft.net
2	0600	2	0800	7,14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	qrp.ru
2	1200	3	1159	3.5-28	PRO CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, "/M" if member	www.procontestclub.ro
2	1400	3	1359	3.5-14,21	INORC Contest	CW	RST, club, mbr or serial	www.inorc.it
2	1800	3	2359	3.5-28	FT Roundup	Dig	W/VE: RST, state/province; DX: RST, serial	www.rttycontesting.com
5	0100	5	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, Youth YL, or Youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
5	0200	5	0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
6	0230	6	0300	1.8-14,21	Phone Weekly Test	Ph	Name, SPC	www.perluma.com
6	1700	6	2100	144	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu
7	0000	7	0300	1.8	QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrparki.org
7	0000	8	0300	7	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com
7	1800	7	2200	28	NRAU 10-M Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net
7	2000	7	2200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9	0000	11	2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC	www.podxs070.com
9	0600	10	1800	1.8-28	TRC Digi Contest	Dig	RST, serial, "TRC" if member	trcdx.org/rules-trc-digi
9	1200	10	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, member or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9	1300	10	1300	3.5,7	ARI 40/80 Contest	Ph CW Dig	RS(T), 2-letter province code	www.ari.it
10	2000	10	2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrparki.org
12	0100	12	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, Youth YL, or Youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
13	0130	13	0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
13	0230	13	0300	1.8-14,21	Phone Weekly Test	Ph	Name, SPC	www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf
13	1700	13	2100	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu/i
14	1900	14	2000	3.5,7	EACW Meeting	CW	RST, mbr, nickname, EA province or DXCC prefix	www.eacwspain.es
15	1600	15	1700	3.5,7	AGB-Party Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST, serial, mbr or none	www.ev5agb.com
15	1800	15	2200	1.8	Russian 160-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), oblast code or serial	www.topband.ru
16	0000	16	2359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
16	0000	16	2359	3.5-28	OK DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, CQ zone	okrtty.crk.cz/i
16	1400	17	1400	1.8-28	Croatian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 9A county or ITU zone	www.hamradio.hr
17	2300	18	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com
19	0100	19	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, Youth YL, or Youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
20	0130	20	0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
20	0230	20	0300	1.8-14,21	Phone Weekly Test	Ph	Name, SPC	www.perluma.com
20	1700	20	2100	1.2G	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	Dig	4-char grid square	www.ft8activity.eu/i
21	0000	22	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com
21	1900	21	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp
24	0000	31	2359	1.8-28	CW QRS Xmas Activity	CW	RST, name, QTH	cwqrs.it
26	0100	26	0159	1.8-28,50	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	Ph	RS, age group (OM, YL, Youth YL, or Youth)	wwsac.com/rules.html
26	0830	26	1059	3.5,7	DARC Christmas Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), DOK (or "NM" if not a DARC member), serial	www.darc.de
27	0000	27	0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
27	0230	27	0300	1.8-14,21	Phone Weekly Test	Ph	Name, SPC	www.perluma.com
30	0000	30	2359	1.8-28,50,144	RAC Winter Contest	CW Ph	VE: RS(T), province/territory; non-VE: RS(T), serial	www.rac.ca/contesting-results
30	1200	30	2359	3.5-28	YOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age (avg age for multi-ops)	www.ham-yota.com/contest
30	1500	31	1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	www.kkn.net/stew
31	0900	31	2359	3.5,7	Bogor Old and New Contest	Ph	RS, operator age	www.orari-bogor.org

Note: All dates and times are in UTC, Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state.

NEW ZEALAND STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT



Polish and lubricate that old morse key and enjoy an evening of old-time radio fun.

Straight Key Night is an informal event which honours the roots of amateur radio: Morse Code sent with a straight key (no bugs, sideswipers, keyers or keyboards).

This semi-annual event is supported by the New Zealand Morse Code Telegraph Key Directory.

When

Summer SKN is the first Sunday in December, 9-10pm NZ time.

Band

80m (3.5 MHz)

Mode

CW sent with a straight key (no bugs, sideswipers, paddles or keyboards)

Rules

Maximum transmitter output: 100 watts.

All contacts must be CW-to-CW.

All contacts must be made using a straight key (with exceptions for operators who cannot use a straight key due to disability).

Stations must not 'park' on a frequency making multiple contacts. The CQ station must give up the frequency as soon as they make a contact. Get full details of the QSY Rule.

Exchange

RST / Location / Name / Key / Transmitter / Power

We recommend calling "CQ SKN" or just "SKN" rather than "CQ TEST" for clarity and to help promote the event.

We recommend exchanging meaningful RST, rather than an automatic "599".

Bruce Scahill Best Fist Award

The Best Fist Award returns to SKN, starting with the Winter edition (11 June 2023). It is now named in honour of long-time SKN supporter Bruce Scahill ZL1BWG (SK). Please be sure to nominate the ONE operator who you believe had the best fist during SKN. Nominations must be received within one week after the event. More information.

Logs and summary sheets

SKN is an informal event so you will not be submitting a log or summary sheet.

H-NIGHT

H Night commemorates the return of some Amateur Radio privileges after World War 2.

On the evening of 8 December 1945, Amateurs were permitted once more to operate on the 80 metre band (and other allocated spectrum just below today's 6 metre band). H Night is a way to commemorate this moment in time by getting on air, on the 80 metre band, at 19:30 on the 8th of December each year.

And those wanting more information download this PDF: [H Night Preamble](#)

Band: 80 metres - Mode: Amplitude Modulation (AM), Phone only - that is a carrier and both sidebands.

Date: 8 December each year 7.30 pm to 10:00 pm NZDST - five (5) half-hour periods.

Work individual stations once in each period, unless they can change radios, and operate in another category, e.g. use a ZC1 for fifteen (15) minutes then change to a modern radio for fifteen (15) minutes.

There will be a special event station ZL6H. Work this station for the first time for five (5) points... subsequent contacts claim the points for the type of station that ZL6H is.

Transmitting Categories-

- Vintage - radios of all valve, in the signal path.
- Hybrid - radios with some valves, at least in the final stage.
- Modern - solid state, DSP etc.
- SDR - radios that are fully software defined, Flex, K3 etc.
- Home Brew - where Tx, Rx or both have been fabricated in the home workshop.
- QRP - less than or equal to 5 watts carrier power.

Exchange a signal report and type of equipment you use e.g. '59 ZC1'. Suggest you use the following extensions when calling, and claim the points for each station worked-

- /V = Vintage - 3 points
- /H = Hybrid - 2 points
- /M = Modern - 1 point
- /S = SDR - 2 points
- /W = Homebrew - 2 points
- /Q = QRP - 3 points

Working ZL6H - 5 points (first time worked only, then claim points as for type of station ZL6H is... for example 1 point for a modern ZL6H)

Points will be awarded for each station contacted, based on the equipment THE STATION YOU CONTACT uses.

Suggested calling frequencies: QRP 3750 kHz and QRO 3850 kHz, giving older receivers a chance to hear weak signals.

YOUTH ON THE AIR MONTH



The entire month of December several youngsters will become active with YOTA as suffix in the callsign. The idea for this is to show the amateur radio hobby to youth and to encourage youngsters to be active on the ham radio waves.

Give a demonstration in a school or local club, gather together with your friends, grab a pizza and make some QSOs or enjoy a great pile-up. Let us all show this great hobby to the world!

Feel free to make a QSO with the youngsters, they are happy to get some attention and exchange information. Licensed and unlicensed youth will be making QSOs, be aware this could be their first radio contact ever and give them a chance to experience a possible new hobby.

This is a direct link to the DXCluster already filtered to active stations within the December YOTA Month activity: [DYM Stations 2023](https://events.ham-yota.com/) More info at: <https://events.ham-yota.com/>

3V8CB/YOTA <u>Tunisa</u>	4X1YOTA <u>Israel</u>	8I0YOTA <u>Indonesia</u>	8N2YOTA <u>Japan</u>	9A0YOTA <u>Croatia</u>	9M2YOTA <u>Malaysia</u>
A91YOTA <u>Bahrain</u>	A023YOTA <u>Spain</u>	CO0YOTA <u>Cuba</u>	CQ7YOTA <u>Portugal</u>	DQ23YOTA <u>Germany</u>	E2YOTA <u>Thailand</u>
E71YOTA <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u>	GB23YOTA <u>United Kingdom</u>	HA6YOTA <u>Hungary</u>	HG0YOTA <u>Hungary</u>	HL0YOTA <u>Republic Of Korea</u>	K8A <u>United States</u>
K8O <u>United States</u>	K8T <u>United States</u>	K8Y <u>United States</u>	LR1YOTA <u>Argentina</u>	OH2YOTA <u>Finland</u>	OL23YOTA <u>Czech republic</u>
OM23YOTA <u>Slovakia</u>	PA6YOTA <u>Netherlands</u>	PC6YOTA <u>Netherlands</u>	S50YOTA <u>Slovenia</u>	SH9YOTA <u>Sweden</u>	SK8YOTA <u>Sweden</u>
SN0YOTA <u>Poland</u>	SU8YOTA <u>Egypt</u>	TC100YOTA <u>Turkiye</u>	TM23YOTA <u>France</u>	TM4YOTA <u>France</u>	VA7YOTA <u>Canada</u>
VE2YOTA <u>Canada</u>	VE3YOUTH <u>Canada</u>	YO0YOTA <u>Romania</u>	YS1YOTA <u>El Salvador</u>	YT23YOTA <u>Republic of Serbia</u>	ZS9YOTA <u>South Africa</u>

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITORS DESK

As the year moves relentlessly towards the end of another year, our AGM is over, and we are all thinking of our holiday commitments.

For Papakura, this means this one more Ham cram, and a chance for the last few persons to complete get their callsigns, so that they can operate that shiny new ham radio waiting under the tree (Maybe not but one can dream) and wrapping up the years final duties.

It also means that our annual subs are now due, so if you want to be a voting member of the Papakura club, and to belong to our group, have a look at the back page of the newsletter and make an electronic payment to the bank account on the back page of this newsletter. Remember, we exist to serve our members, and that means our membership is important to us. A strong club is one where members contribute both financially, but also by attending meetings, and letting us know how what you need from us.

I have been working on a home solar project for the last few weeks (Ok it's been almost 2 months now), which was supposed to take a couple of weekends but was stalled first by weather and then by multiple small trials. Not to mention the issues with a bureaucratic body who seemed to delight in asking for more information and then repeating the process once you answered the first request, by asking for even more information. The add missing parts, parts not available, and wrong parts supplied, and of course the panels being larger than what we designed for. *(Thanks to ZL1IRC for helping with the DC crimp tools)*

But eventually (ok still waiting on the bureaucracy), we have a working system that is awaiting the final paperwork to be connected. In the meantime, we have completed some trials, and at the end of it all, I'm still not convinced the Solar installs are a particularly good financial investment. It's likely that your breakeven point will occur in 10-15 years. Based on the cost of the materials (I have not charged myself for the labour), and while the solar panels should last this long, I have concerns about the life of the batteries.



But the batteries allow us to run a backup mode, where a power cut will not leave us without power, so It makes sense to have them, but with the current technology, the conversion rates of sunlight to electricity, means that on a wet or cloudy day, the batteries alone barely recover from a typical overnight load, even with minimal loads on the inverter. This means unless you upgrade all your appliances to be very energy efficient, you will still be paying for grid supply to get through winter and the wet days too.

Of course, I could spend another 4 to 6 thousand dollars on more battery storage, but without bright sunny days, the system will still struggle.

The Motorhome, by comparison, is powered with much smaller battery capacity, smaller solar panels and does not suffer these problems. And the reason is the cooking and water heating comes from bottle gas. Electric heating may be convenient, but it requires more than solar alone can produce. In our case almost 30% of our total power bill.

On sunny days we produce more power than we can use, and this means (Once we get grid connected, and our meter upgraded) we can sell this back to the supply company, while the motorhome power is simply lost if we don't use it. So, the extra income will off-set the line charges and days when we have more use than we can create. Nice really.

One thing that this exercise has made me consider is the parasitic loads on the supply. Parasitic, Vampiric, Phantom or Ghost loads, is the term used for the standby current drawn from the supply when plugged in, but not being used. Things like displays, clocks and LED indicators, all contribute to this load. The power drain of these is barely significant, Maybe 250 watts for the whole installation but over 8 hours, these use 2KWh of battery life (quarter of my total storage), so I have become more aware of these, and have started to turn these off at night, since I get 8 hours of charge, and 16 hours of load, these add up. But on a cost saving measure, let's say 12 hours of use at 250 watts adds up to 3KWh or 3 units (this is 60 cents per day or 18 dollars per 30 days/month)

I realise this may not be a lot of money, but it's surprising how much power can be saved by switching off some devices at the wall before going to bed. So, I guess all this should help with a lower power bill at the end of the month.

Surprisingly, there is very little information on Ham radio gear or power supply loads, but if left on, I'm sure that any power supply that still has a light on it at night, will be drawing power.

Maybe it's worth turning these off at night too. – Maybe?

So yes, the solar journey has made me a "little greener" than I may care to admit. ... or perhaps, just a "little meaner" with my wallet. Either way, it's been an interesting journey.

The clubroom has also had its electrical issues, with some repairs needed on the hot water boiler, and an exit sign in need of some repair too. While the boiler is now fixed, the exit sign is facing the challenge of finding some old parts, but hopefully we will have it sorted soon too.

Otherwise all quiet on the power front.



Like power any club is powered by its members. We have had the privilege this year of bringing many new hams to the joys of amateur radio, and we have benefited from their contributions, but as the busy seasons hit the numbers attending meetings fell. This raises questions whether we are meeting the needs of members, or are we simply competing with all the other activities?

Is our club relevant, and are we value for money?

Are we powering essential supplies, or is the only glow from phantom loads?

Are members keen to remain part of our group?



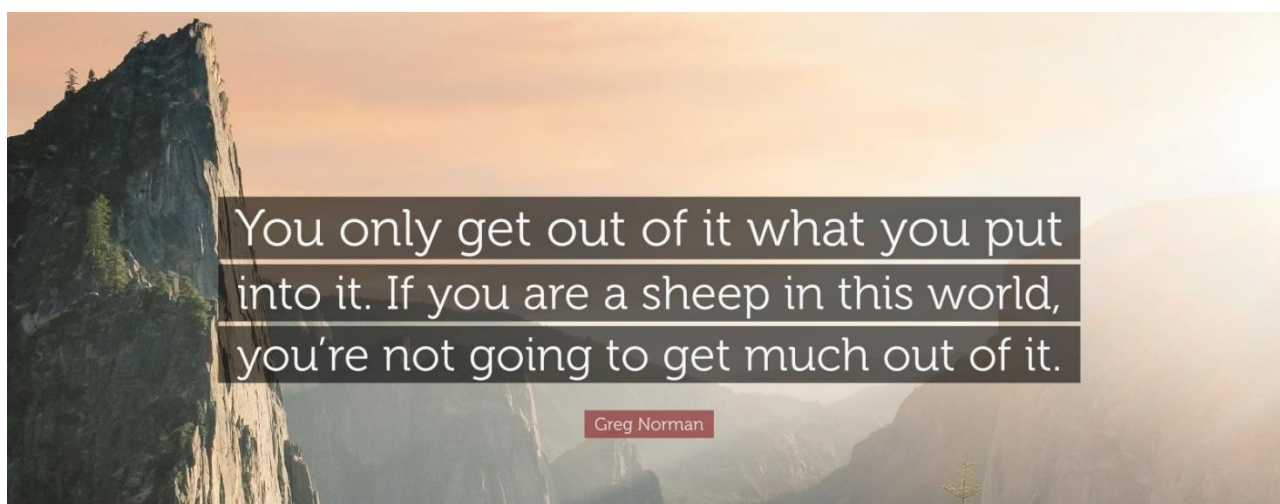
No club will ever meet the needs of every member, and it's unlikely that we are essential to every ham. But there are still many reasons why you might want to consider the benefits of a club.

1. Technical support. Yes, in the age of YouTube and the internet, you can find all the information you need, but can you also get all the experience you can get from someone who has been there before? Discussing your problems with your project/system/ build/project may not get an immediate answer, but you may find others who are doing something similar, and learning together is easier than learning alone.
2. Advice: In such a huge hobby, the skills and equipment needed change with each project. Some of us like to operate from motorhomes, some from base stations, some use internet connected hotspots, some climb hills, and need to carry all their gear. In a small group, you may find others who enjoy what you enjoy, but in a larger group, you are more likely to find someone who likes that same part of the hobby as you. Bigger groups have more to offer.

3. Social Connections: One of the biggest benefits of amateur radio in my mind has been the friendships I have made both over the airwaves, and face to face. We are not normal people when compared to the greater mass, but when we collect together in a group, we find that we are not so alone, and there are other like us.
4. Information: just this week I found out that the national system repeater in Auckland has gone back on air (with limited coverage but working). Given this is one of only two working UHF repeaters in Auckland, it's good to know it's working again, but if I had not been at the meeting, I would still not know. And based on the limited traffic, I guess many still don't know.
5. Encouragement: Getting together with others is a good way to find out what others are doing and seeing what they are enjoying may be just what you need to try something new. General meetings may be the best place to find out about new stuff.

Every Member contributes to the club, just being there is contributing, But maybe if you not finding the club is meeting your needs, Maybe you should look at what your putting into it.

One of the best things you can give us is an idea of what you are looking for from the club. If you ask the right questions, or share your experiences, or request information on a topic, or encourage someone, or make a friend, then you are contributing to the life of the club.



So have a think about your club. It needs you to contribute, so we have a wealth of resources to give to others. Think about the next year and ask yourself, What do you want from the club, and what do you have to contribute?

Questions, company, enthusiasm, money. Yes, these are all good, but what we really need is you. So, come along and join in, help make the club better and you may just find that you might get a lot more out too.

Let me know if you have any ideas to help us be more than we are. Better yet, start making it happen. Who knows, it may be the next big thing. Either way, we'd love to hear from you.

73 for now de ZL1NUX

WILL AI HELP US HAVE MORE FUN WITH AMATEUR RADIO

Dan KB6NU raised some interesting thoughts on his Blog when he asked himself the same question.

Based on a Bill Gates article “4 Unimaginable Ways AI Will Change Your Life Within the Next 5 Years, According to Bill Gates.” Gates stated that in the next five years, you will have your own artificial intelligence assistant, or agent, that will be a frequent voice in your ear and will help you with everything from deciding where to go on vacation to managing your friendships and more. He then took a minute about how Gates’ 4 Ways and how they might help us enjoy amateur radio more.

His ideas were:

1. You won’t bother with software or operating systems anymore.

How cool would this be. You could simply tell your AI amateur radio assistant, “Let’s operate 20-meter FT8 this afternoon,” and the agent would set up the radio and begin looking for contacts. If the band wasn’t open, it would come back and tell you, “I’m sorry, Dave, but propagation on 20 meters is terrible this afternoon. May I suggest 30 meters instead?”

2. Your agent will be a frequent voice in your ear.

Gates believes that most of us will wear at least one earbud most of the time so that our agents can talk to us whenever they need to. So, for example, it might be monitoring the activity on 6 meters and notify you when the band is open. Or, you might want it to notify you when a particular contest or operating event is coming up so that you don’t miss it. “Dave,” it might say, “remember that the 2-meter club net is at 8 pm tonight.”

3. Your agent will get involved in your personal relationships.

We often don’t think of amateur radio as having a personal aspect, but it really does. For example, don’t we enjoy talking to some people more than others? Your personal agent could monitor your club’s 2-meter repeater or 40-meter CW and notify you when your friends are on the air.

Gates also notes that you could have your AI assistant talk to your friends’ assistants and set up lunch for you. Well, you could also use that capability to set up an on-air sked.

4. It might even help you solve personal problems.

The article notes, “One of the most intriguing predictions Gates made is that your agent could also become your therapist” While many hams probably do need therapy, I’m not so sure how applicable this will be to amateur radio.

What I could see happening is using an AI assistant to help you choose your next rig or maybe help you troubleshoot a problem. Here are some scenarios:

You ask your AI assistant what rig you should buy next. Since it already knows what bands you like to operate—and the state of your finances—it can analyse all the options and find a radio that meets your operating needs and fits into your budget.

You might describe your backyard and the bands that you want to operate, and your AI Assistant could come back with antenna suggestions.

You ask your AI assistant about a problem that you’re having with your rig. It comes back with, “Dave, if you would just RTFM, you will find the answer on page 67 of the operating manual.” Or,

after scanning the appropriate online forums, it would tell you, “Dave, several other owners seem to be having a similar problem. Here’s what they’ve done....”

All of this sounds kind of fun to me, but I can understand some of you having reservations. What do you think?

Being unable to put all my concerns down on a blog, I have considered his ideas in this medium instead.

Sadly, I see the rise of AI as like 5G, I see a solution looking for a problem to solve.

The promised Internet of things, is pretty much connecting stuff to the internet for no real reason.

1. So not using software, and having my AI decide which bands to use, OK, maybe. If it monitors the DX cluster to work out possible active paths, this might save time. But if it looks at solar activity and makes predictions, I give it the same value as a weather report. If everyone is told there is no path, even if there is, will they still come out to play? I think Calling CQ, and seeing what’s there, might still be a better way.
2. The constant voice in my ear? No, I will not be married to an AI, and I do not want one talking to me all day, every day. This sounds like a living hell version of Doctor Who’s cybermen, or Star Tre’’s the Borg. Count me out of this one, My phone is annoying enough, And I can ignore that.
3. Personal relationships – I wont even put these on a website, yet alone have an AI decide these for me – In short earpiece in the bin, and give me a luddite shirt, if they think Facebook + AI will run my life, I have news, and it’s all bad. .
4. As for solving my personal problems Good Luck, they are too numerous for any AI to even know where to start. _ I wonder will we need therapists for AI after it learns how bad the entire human race is, or will it simply build SKYNET and Terminators to solve the problem once and for all.



Instead, If AI does go into ham radio, I suspect we might likely see the AI doing all your FT8 for you, and then announcing, *“Congratulations, you’ve received a work 50 states award from ARRL, Shall I put it with the others?”*

Or worse.

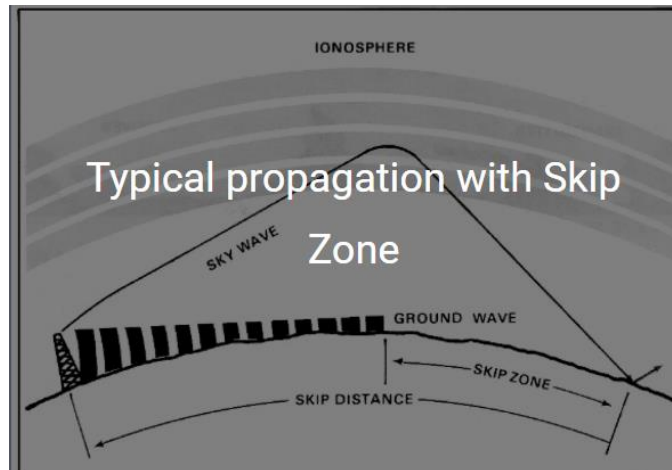
“Frank is calling you on CW, I’ve responded, and he says that the bands are wide open today. Do you have a personal reply, or should I just talk to him on your behalf?”

Remember, someone has already set up a radio station where you could talk to an AI, and have a conversation with it. I wonder if the AI got its license first?

And while I see AI in a radio being able to clarify speech by adjusting gain and filters to make it as clear as possible, and maybe even helping a white stick operator with setting up the radio, I’m unsure the hobby will benefit from the AI in the near future – So I’m happy to park the idea for about 10 years.

NVIS – IT MAY BE MORE USE THAN WE THINK.

One of the first things we learn about HF or any long range communication is that a low angle to take off radiation is critical for long range communications ... and assuming we are trying to work stations around the world, we normally try to set a horizontal antenna as a height above $1/4^{\text{th}}$ of the wavelength ($1/4\lambda$). Of course, if the Antenna is vertical, we will have it at ground level so the launch angle is also low.



If we hit the ionosphere with that low angle, we get the greatest distance.

But what about when we want to talk in a local region?

What if I want to get a signal into the skip zone?

This is where NVIS comes into play.

In NVIS, we keep the HF antenna low to the ground, at heights of 2 metres or even less. (Note, we will have to shorten the antenna, as the ground effect changes the impedance of the antenna elements).

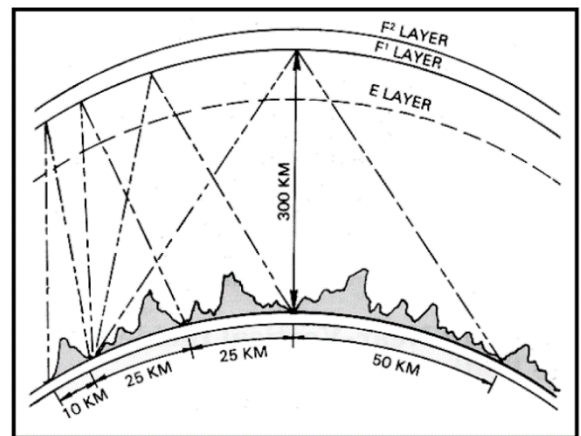


Figure M-1. Near-vertical incidence sky-wave propagation concept.

Ideally, the antenna will be about 0.15λ and will be above conductive ground. Where the ground is not conductive a longer director can be installed below the radiator.

Frequencies.

NVIS is always good below 2MHz and as high as 4MHz at night, and during the day, it can work over 4-8MHz.

This means we could run NVIS for 160, 80, 60 and 40 Metres. (60 Metres currently requires a special license, but will soon be added to the GURL, but with low power limits)

So how far can NVIS get?

NVIS coverage changes with the height above ground of the Ionosphere, but coverage of up to 500 Kilometers have been reported in ideal conditions. 1-200 Km is more common.

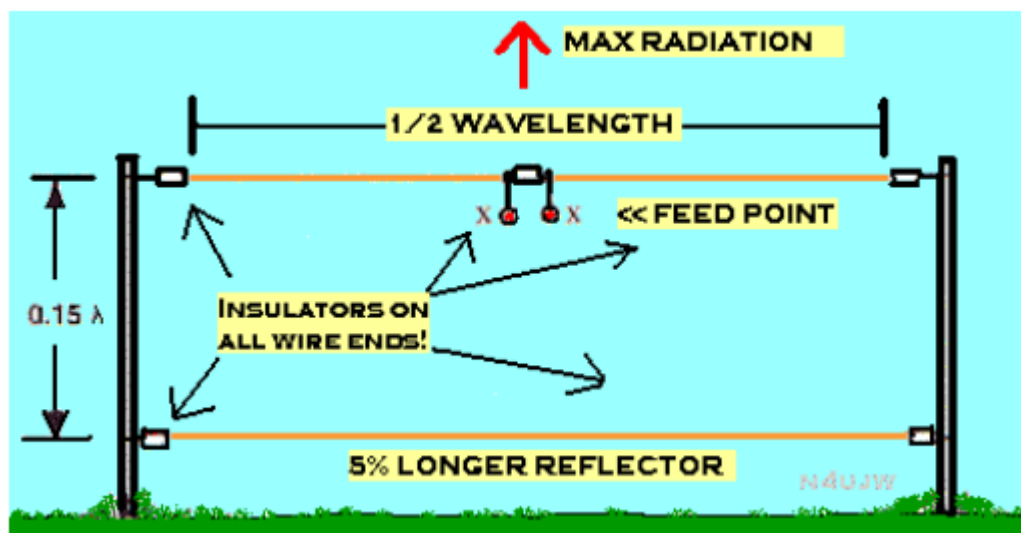
I've been thinking that adding an NVIS to field days stations, or maybe even having a small one for the motorhome could give me some options when travelling. In addition, the antenna should be easy to erect, A few poles about 1.5 - 2 metres each in length (I'm planning to use fibreglass for weight reasons), and some wire strung along them to make the radiator, then maybe if I want to shorten them, I could add loading coils (but these add weight) to the elements to shorten the length.

So as I again dabble back into the 40 and 80 metre bands, and play with NVIS, I have to ask.

Who else is playing with NVIS, and what are your results looking like?

If your not yet playing do you feel like having a go?

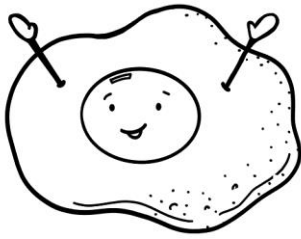
It could be fun.



Any takers for an experiment?



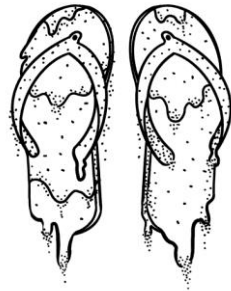
WORD PLAY – FOR A LAUGH



EGG-CITED



CAT-A-LOG



SAND-ALS



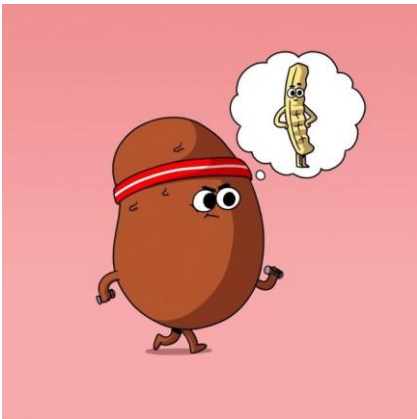
TRAVELLING LIGHT



EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE



BEAR IN MIND



HEARD AROUND THE SCENES

HAM RADIO IS 17% OF ICOMS BUSINESS.

ICOM is well known as one of the key manufacturers of high-quality transceivers for the amateur radio market. In May of 2023, they released a document titled 'Medium Term Business Plan 2026' which outlined the company's plans for the financial year March 2024 to March 2026.

As the graphic above shows, ICOM are involved in several radio and communication sectors, but I think most people would be surprised to learn that amateur radio only accounts for 17% of ICOM's business.

It's a bit like saying something without actually saying anything. It's well known that the amateur radio community is getting older and it's not a growth market. If ICOM can make money selling equipment to radio amateurs, they'll stay in the market.

The original document is pretty bland and if you want to read it, you can find it [HERE](#)

FREE EMAIL SERVICE FOR RADIO OPERATORS

If you want a unique ham radio callsign, maybe you can get a callsign.radio email account

email.radio is dedicated to providing free email hosting for all licensed ham radio operators (globally). You will get a (free!) email @email.radio address, that is 1GB, which you can ask to expand later on.

With 370 current users – it's unlikely to run out of space anytime soon, but it may be a conversation starter.

Notes: A few things first

- This service is *only* for ham radio operators. Meaning, you must have a valid callsign to apply
- If you are applying for a special event callsign, you'll retain access to the account until: 7 days prior to the next club that holds it **or** the next club that holds it requests it after your event. Whichever comes first.
- If you wish to apply for a club sign or an event call, you'll need to apply for an individual account before you do. This is because the group accounts must hold at least one individual account (and you'll be able to access those messages from your personal account)
- **DO NOT USE THIS SERVICE FOR ANYTHING IMPORTANT.** QSL cards and using it for basic contact is fine, however, using this in place of say a hotmail address is not ill-advised, seeing as this service is ran by a high-schooler and I cannot guarantee an SLA.

THE NEXT OFFICIAL BROADCAST WILL BE HELD SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 8:00 PM.

The HF broadcast is made on 3900 kHz, LSB at the top end of the 80m band. It will be rebroadcast in the Auckland area on the 6625 Repeater, and is available on the NZART website: [NZART-Official Broadcast](#)



COMBINED FRANKLIN – PAPAURA CHRISTMAS DINNER

On December 1st the two clubs met for dinner at the Pukekohe, Great food, and excellent company made this a great night for all, Next year it will be up to Papakura to try to raise the bar.



It was particularly nice to see so many new faces, and so many transmitting ladies this year. Lets hope we have even more faces and callsigns next year.

SOME NETS – FOR WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOME COMPANY

Day	Time (Local)	Freq (MHz)	Group
Sunday	08:00	3.750	Southern Net
	08:30	146.625	Br 65 – Papakura Net
	09:00	3.700	Br 10 - Franklin
	09:15	3.755	Br 65. Papakura.
	09:30	146.900	Br 10 – Franklin ZL1SA
	19:00	146.700	YL Net
	19:45	145.575	Thames radio club ZL1DF
	20:00	3.700	Br 42. Titahi Bay
	21:30	3.595	Duran WIA Net.
Monday	11:30	3.850/7.125	Br 12. Hamilton
	19:30	3.757	Br 12. Hamilton
	20:00	3.540	CW Practice Net
	20:00	3.605	Br 80. Hibiscus Coast
	20:30	3.870	O.T.C (Old Timers Club)
Tuesday	09:00	7.096	Ex Post Office Techs
	21:00	1.850	160m Net _ Ron ZL4JMF
	19:30	3.690	QRP ZL2BH
	20:00	3.581	CW improvers Net
Wednesday	11:30	3.850/7.125	SPAM Net
	19:30	146.700	ZL1AB Net
	20:00	3.660	Geek Net
	20:00	3.645	Br 02. Auckland
	20:00	3.745	Br 84. Bay of Islands
	20:30	146.525	W.R.S.C
Thursday	09:00	7.096	Ex Post Office Techs
	19:30	3.690	QRP ZL2BH
	20:00	3.540	CW Practice Net
	20:00	3.615	Br 89. REG Net
	20:30	3.696	ZL1OA
	20:30	3.666	LF Net ZL2CA
	20:00	3.690	ZL QRP SSB Net
Friday	20:30	3.850	SPAM (AM Mode)
	20:30	3.650	W.S.R.C.
	20:30	3.560	Digital Modes Net
Saturday	10:30	28.530	10-10 Down Under
	19:30	3.650	Christian Fellowship
	20:30	3.600	Br 62. Reefton/Buller
Daily or Other	07:30	3.696	ZL2OA
	08:30	3.730	ZL3RP
	15:00	14.300	Pacific Seafarers
	17:30	3.760	Home Brew
	05:00 Zulu	14.183	ANZA DX Net
	18:00	7.115	VK7OB
	19:30	3.720	ZL1MO
	18:30	3.766	ZL3LE
	08:30/20:00	3.730	ZL3RP
	20:30	3.725	ZL2HN / ZL4RF
	21:00	3.677	Counties Net ZL2MA
	21:00	3.535	New Zealand Net (CW)

This is designed to be a living list, Please send me any updates whenever you are able:

Papakura Radio Club Inc.
Branch 65 NZART Club Directory 2017
Wellington Park, 1 Great South Road.
PO BOX 72-397 Papakura 2244
PHONE 09 296 5244

Westpac 03-0399-0019896-00

Club website: <http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk> Club email: zl1vk.club@gmail.com

President	ZL1NUX	Gavin Denby	021 459 192
Vice President	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	021 729 270
Secretary	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	021 198 1810
Treasurer	ZL1MR	David Wilkins	021 185 7903
Committee	ZL1DK	David Karrasch	021 560 180
	ZL1IRC	Ian Clifford	021 082 48400
	ZL1RJS	Rob Stokes	021 307 005
	ZL1RIC	Ricky Hodge	027 533 8155
	ZL4MDE	Mike Enderby	021 529 895
	ZL1KIM	Kimi Nooroa	
	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	021 729 270
AREC Section Leader	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	021 729 270
CD Liaison	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	021 198 1810
Newsletter Editor	ZL1NUX	Gavin Denby	021 459 192
Hall Custodian	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	021 198 1810
Newsletter.	Contact:	zl1nux@outlook.com	

Our newsletter is published monthly and normally distributed just before the club meeting. Please forward articles etc to the editor Wednesday 1 week before the general meeting. Please notify any change of address. Including E-Mail Address to the secretary.

Meetings

General Meetings are held at the Clubrooms on the 1st Wednesday of each month, starting at 7.30 pm. Look at your calendar and mark these nights. The speaker follows the General Meeting.

Project Evenings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Committee Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm unless advised.

Activity Nights are held on the 2nd Wednesday starting at 7.30 pm.

AREC Meetings are on the 5th Wednesday night, also starting at 7.30 pm

AGM: Held in November

Subscription: Full membership and newsletter \$25.00 Family Membership and newsletter \$40.00

Bank Account number: 03-0399-0019896-00 Working Bees As required.

Branch 65 21 Award: For contacts with ZL1VK (5 Points) and 8 Papakura Radio Club Members (2 Points each) after January 2011. Total 21 Points. Cost \$5-00. Certified list and \$5-00 to Secretary, Papakura Radio Club. Address above.

ZL1VK Club Nets

146.625 MHz Sunday at 8.30 am. Controller ZL1NUX, Gavin Denby. If the repeater is not available, listen 146.475MHz simplex.

3.755 MHz Sunday at 9.15 am. Controller ZL1BNQ Richard Gamble. (Linked to 146.675 & 438.775)